Decline in foodgrain allocation for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

†603. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether while the number of children covered under the Mid-Day Meal Scheme had increased from 10.38 crores in 2002-03 to 10.88 crores in 2004-05, the food grain allocations had declined significantly;

(b) whether the allocated quantity of food grains for Mid-Day Meal Scheme for these years have declined; and

(c) what corrective measures have been taken for allocation of food grains on the basis of school days in a reported year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) 28.37 lakh MTs of food grains was allocated to States and Union Territories in 2002-03; in 2004-05, 26.69 lakh MTs of food grains was allocated. As reported by States/UTs, 10.35 crore and 10.87 crore children were covered during 2002-03 and 2004-05 respectively. Prior to September 2004, most States and Union Territories were providing food grains (dry ration) at the rate of 3 kg per child per month. Cooked Mid-Day Meal was in operation only in some States/UTs including *inter alia* Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) was revised in September, 2004 to uniformly provided cooked Mid-Day Meal to all eligible children across the country and Central assistance of food grains at the rate of 100 gms per child per school day is being provided. The difference in the allocation for the year 2002-03 and 2004-05 is on account of the different pattern of implementation of Mid-Day Meal Programme in States/UTs prior to September, 2004.

Inclusion of more vocational courses

†604. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBSE is going to include more vocational courses in curriculum from new academic session;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, at what standard they will be introducing;

(c) whether Government are aware of the fact that not only in other parts of the country but even in Delhi, most of the CBSE recognized schools don't have all the core subjects for study so that students could not opt for their favourite subjects for study;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) the action being taken by Government to ensure proper introduction of new vocational subjects in the curriculum in all schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (b) yes, Sir. Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is introducing Financial Market Management at Senior Secondary Level (+ 2 level) during the academic year 2007-08.

(c) and (d) As per National Curriculum Framework, 2005, all subjects are compulsory upto class X. The students of classes XI and XII can choose any subject combination from a variety of subjects. The schools offer the subjects as per their requirement & resources

(e) It is for the concerned Examination Boards and schools to introduce new vocational subjects based on demand and subject to availability of resources.

Aiding Madarsas for modernisation

605. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Keeping in view of the Sachar Committee findings, the steps being initiated to aid Madarsas and to provide their modernization at the elementary and primary level under the SSA scheme;

(b) whether any survey and process of identification of out of school children of minority community has been initiated and if so, how many such pockets having large number of such children have been indentified; and

(c) the steps being taken to recruit and train a large number of Urdu teachers required for these re-structured Madarsas?